

A RADICAL CHANGE.

The Administration Reported to Be Considering a Radical Change in Financial Policy—Free Coinage and More Greenbacks to Be Favored.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—President Harrison is for free coinage of silver. He has committed himself to bimetalism. His Administration will work to this end as rapidly as safe financing will justify. Minister Reid has already received his instructions to open negotiations with the French Government for an international monetary conference. Minister Lincoln and Minister Phelps, as soon as they reach London and Berlin will lay before Great Britain and Germany the propositions of this Government. From informal assurances already received it is believed that these Powers, especially France and Great Britain, will join the United States in arranging for the permanent remonetization of silver. But the movement toward the adoption of an international agreement of bimetalism is only one feature of the vigorous financial policy which this Administration is about to inaugurate. The President and the true friends of silver are now working together. Plans had not advanced far enough to warrant an outline of them when the message was sent to Congress. That is the reason the President did not make definite suggestions. Conferences are now being held daily. The financial measures which the Administration proposed to stand by are being drafted with great care. They are to be placed before Congress at the earliest practicable moment, and then the new financial policy of the Republican party will be made known to the world. This policy can be summarized in just two words. The words are "more money." The President has declared himself for "more money." He is satisfied that the country needs it. He is ready for an aggressive policy. All he asks is that the steps to be taken shall be thoroughly considered, so that they may not have to retrace them.

One step which the President is already considering seriously tends directly toward free coinage of silver. The proposition is to buy at once the surplus silver in the country. The amount is about 14,000,000 ounces. It is thought that if this surplus is out of the way the present silver law will consume the product as rapidly as it is turned out. Silver will go to 129 or near there, and remain fixed. After a few months of this fixed valuation, bimetalism will be the most natural step. It is admitted by all that the silver law has not operated as was expected. The effect of the law has been to unsettle silver, and foreign exchange with it. A new field has been opened to speculation. In fact, the silver law has done more harm than good. The fault, the friends of silver claim, is found in the existence of this big surplus of silver outstanding in the country. If that surplus is bought in, and the policy of free coinage, as soon as it can be safely adopted, is declared, it is argued that silver will advance to 127 or thereabouts, and remain steady. This is part of what the Administration now has in view. But it is not all. A resolution instructing the Secretary of the Treasury to buy in open market 14,000,000 or 15,000,000 ounces of silver at not more than par, will be only one of the propositions. The President has been giving a great deal of thought of late to financial questions. He has become thoroughly convinced that the country must have more money. He recognizes that the greatest of issues is now at hand, and he is going to meet it. Republican Senators from the West are surprised to find how much aroused Mr. Harrison is upon this matter.

The President has analyzed the farmers' movement, and he sees the element of justice in it which cries out against the contraction of the currency. The President has heard from the bankers and business men. He has made up his mind that the majority of the people and of the business interests call for more money, and he is ready to do what he can to commit the Republican party to the policy of more money. Free coinage is to be but one of the means to the end of an expansion of the currency. Another means may be the issue of a large amount of legal tender notes. The sum of \$150,000,000 has been suggested. This proposition is now under consideration. It is admitted that the addition of silver will not be enough. Other plans must be devised to increase the currency, and the issue of legal tender is urged by some of the Republican leaders who are working out this.

MONEY CONTINUES TIGHT.

The New York Post Describes It as a "Credit Panic."

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The Post says: "Every one understands that the existing loss of confidence in financial affairs is what may be called a 'credit panic.' The foreign exchange market will probably furnish the first means of relief in the interchange of commodities and securities. The balance will for a good many months run very heavily in favor of the United States. Europe has already sold us the bulk of our securities which were owned there and has not much more left to sell. On the other hand England can not get along very well without our meat and flour and cotton, and these will continue to be shipped as long as England has money to buy them. Exchange will undoubtedly be kept down to rates at which it will pay to import gold, and as bankers can feel able to be out of the use of their capital for the ten days' time of transit, it will come."

THIRD PARTY MOVEMENT.

Continuation of the Proceedings of the National Alliance—Consolidation of Different Organizations—Call for a Third Party Conference.

OCALA, Fla., Dec. 6.—Dr. C. W. Macune, chairman of the National executive committee of the Farmers' Alliance, said yesterday in regard to the third party movement being engineered by General John H. Rice, Congressman-elect John Davis and Editor Vincent, of Kansas: "I told the delegates that the people in the Southern States were not prepared to embark in the third party movement; that they had not elected delegates to this convention; that the people of the Western and Northwestern States had already embarked in the movement and considered that the prosperity of the order demanded some action of that kind to sustain them in their efforts. In this emergency there was a great necessity for conservatism and caution. We should not forget that we were representing the people at home and not our own likes and dislikes. I recommended as a compromise that would carry out the end sought to be achieved by the West and Northwest if it met the approbation of the South that a convention be called to meet in February, 1892; that the convention be composed of delegates of all associations of producers; and that the next annual session of the supreme council elect delegates to represent this order in that convention. I sustain this by saying that it did not commit the people but provided a means whereby they could express themselves on the secret question through subordinate county and State organizations during the coming year. When the great convention meets the said delegates will come there with authority and instructions from their people. If their reports decide in favor of independent party action it will prevail. If not, the cause will still be benefited by the conference and there will be a better understanding of the object which the laboring classes are seeking to achieve. This is the basis of all I recommend, but it has taken a wonderful hold upon them and it will satisfy both sides."

At the morning session of the National Alliance convention Colonel Livingston, of Georgia, from the committee on organization, made a report which is to furnish the basis for an ultimate union between the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union and the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association which has an organization with a large membership in the Western States. The report was explained at length by Chairman Livingston. Under this proposition the Mutual Benefit Association is still to maintain its separate organization, but to be entitled to representation in the National Alliance council and the executive committee of each organization is to meet hereafter and arrange the details of this union.

At the conclusion of Colonel Livingston's remarks, which occupied nearly an hour, the report was adopted without dissent.

Colonel Livingston also offered a resolution providing for the adoption of the St. Louis Alliance's platform of 1889, inasmuch as there had been a question raised as to the unanimous indorsement of the demands therein contained by all State delegations of a year ago. His idea was to call out any objections which might exist about the absolutely unanimous indorsement.

An amendment was offered by Mr. Loucks, of North Dakota, providing for the ownership of all railroad and telegraph lines by the National Government. Mr. Livingston opposed this and offered as a compromise measure a resolution providing that the liberty to control and operate all such lines should vest in the Government; and if after a fair trial of this system it should be found that it did not afford relief during its effect or effect reforms in the management of them, the Government's ownership should be complete. This was adopted after some discussion.

Mr. Clover, one of the Kansas delegates introduced and had passed a resolution reciting that the United States census returns with respect to farm mortgages was grossly incorrect and calling upon all county and sub-alliances in all States of the Union to make efforts toward securing reliable statistics from the county records and make prompt reports thereon.

Following is the call for the third party conference, signed by General Rice and John Davis, of Kansas and by about seventy-five other Alliance men:

Whereas, in unity there is strength, therefore it is desirable that there should be a union of all the variously named industrial organizations that stand on common grounds to this end. The individuals from various States whose names are hereto signed make this call for a National conference to be composed of delegates from the following organizations, viz.: The Farmers' Alliance, the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association, the Citizens' Alliance, the Knights of Labor and all other industrial organizations that support the principles of the St. Louis agreement of 1889. Each State organization to send one delegate from each Congressional district and two from the State at large, and each district organization to send not less than three delegates, and each county delegation not less than one delegate, to be chosen according to the customs of each respective organization during the month of January, 1892. Also that the editor of each newspaper is hereby invited as a delegate, that has advocated the principles of the St. Louis agreement and supported the Alliance candidates nominated in 1890, the delegates to meet in the city of Cincinnati, O., on Monday, February 28, 1892, at 2 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of forming a National union party based upon the fundamental ideas of finance, transportation, labor and land in furtherance of the work already begun by those organizations preparatory for a united struggle for country and home in the great political conflict now pending that must decide who in this country is the sovereign, "the citizen or the dollar."

ALLIANCE DEMANDS.

The National Convention Makes Certain Demands of Congress, Among Them the Abolition of National Banks and the Free Coinage of Silver.

OCALA, Fla., Dec. 9.—Early in the forenoon session of the Alliance the financial policy of the order came up for discussion under the report of the committee on legislation. This report, as to the financial policy, contained the following amended demands:

First—We demand the abolition of National banks. We demand that the Government shall establish sub-treasuries or depositories in the several States which shall loan money direct to the people at a low rate of interest, not to exceed 2 per cent. per annum, on non-perishable farm products and also upon real estate with proper limitations upon the quantity of land and amount of money. We demand that the amount of the circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

Second—We demand that Congress shall pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the dealing in futures on all agricultural and mechanical products, preserving a stringent system of procedure in trials such as shall secure the prompt conviction of offenders and the imposition of such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with the law.

Third—We condemn the silver bill recently passed by Congress and demand in lieu thereof the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

Fourth—We demand the passing of laws prohibiting alien ownership of land and that Congress take prompt action to devise some plan to obtain all lands now owned by aliens and foreign syndicates, and that all lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them be reclaimed by the Government and held for actual settlers only.

Fifth—Believing in the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand that our National legislation shall be so framed in the future as not to build up one industry at the expense of another. We further demand a reduction of the existing heavy tariff from the necessities of life that the people of our land must have. We further demand a just and equal system of graduated tax on incomes. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, hence we demand that all National and State revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the Government economically and honestly administered.

Sixth—We demand the most rigid, honest and just State and National Governmental control and supervision of the means of public communication and transportation, and if this control and supervision does not remove the abuses now existing, we demand the Government ownership of such means of communication and transportation.

Colonel Livingston, of Georgia, offered a resolution amending the first section of the demands so that the volume of currency issued should not be less than \$50 per capita of the entire population, which was agreed to.

Speeches were made by Davis of Kentucky, Wade of Tennessee, Dr. Macune, Harry Brown of Georgia, Harry Brown of Texas, and the demands of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union were adopted by a vote of seventy-nine to nine.

At the afternoon session Mr. Wardell, of South Dakota, moved to reconsider the vote by which the Alliance protested against the passage of the elections bill, stating the reason for this motion was a feeling that this protest would retard the progress of the Alliance in the North and West and would be considered partisan.

Mr. Hall, of Missouri, moved to lay the motion on the table, which was agreed to—50 to 32. Those States voting against the tabling motion were Illinois, Texas, Indiana, South and North Dakota. There was a divided vote in Arkansas, Missouri, West Virginia, Nebraska and Kansas.

Washington was abandoned for the place of holding the next meeting and the National legislative council will decide at its first meeting upon some city either in Indiana or Illinois.

Delegate Carr, of North Carolina, presented a memorial of the National Farmers' Alliance to the Congress of the United States with reference to the Conger land bill now pending. This memorial recites that the delegates ask that Congress enact as soon as possible Senate bill No. 3,991, known as the Paddock pure food bill, which was introduced by Senator Paddock, of Nebraska, at the instance of the Farmers' Alliance of that State for the reasons that the delegates believe that if the bill becomes a law it will prevent adulteration and misbranding of food preparations and drugs, now so largely and generally practiced to the great injury of the agricultural interests of the country, the health of the people and the morals of the business public.

Some short speeches followed the introduction of the memorial and the convention adopted the following resolutions amid tremendous applause:

Resolved, That we are opposed to the Conger bill and that we favor the passage of the Paddock pure food bill.

The remainder of the afternoon session was chiefly devoted to inside matters relating to the Alliance.

At the night session a resolution was passed favoring the establishment of postal savings banks. A committee was appointed to arrange for a good summer encampment, time and place to be fixed hereafter. The National executive committee was authorized to formulate a plan for a mutual life association and to report at the next annual meeting. At 10 o'clock a. m. the meeting adjourned.

Just before the noon adjournment a resolution was passed indorsing the sub-treasury bill as it now stands in Congress and calling upon Congress to pass it promptly. As the bill now stands it does not include a provision of loans on land, but this feature does appear in the formal demands as adopted. This is a seeming contradiction, but it is explained to mean that the passage of the present sub-treasury bill would afford partial relief and later on the loan feature would be more easily secured than at present.

FARMERS AND LABORERS.

Matters of Interest to Both Classes—The Kansas State Grange—Meeting of the American Federation of Labor—Missouri State Grange.

KANSAS STATE GRANGE.

OLATHE, Kan., Dec. 10.—The nineteenth annual session of the Kansas State Grange convened in Assembly Hall in this city at 10 o'clock yesterday morning.

The session was opened by Worthy Master William Sims, of Topeka, and upon call of the secretary the following officers answered: Worthy Master William Sims, Worthy Overseer E. St. John of Manhattan, Lecturer John G. Otis, Steward A. P. Reader, and the full complement of other officers.

At the afternoon session Worthy Master William Sims delivered his annual address. Among other things he said: "The importance of your order, or the Grange, if you please, as an educational force, in which ample provisions have been made for farmers meeting together, talking together, and for the free and full consideration and discussion in a fraternal manner of all questions pertaining not only to the farm and its management, but to public affairs as well, can not well be overestimated. And our success in this direction has certainly met the reasonable expectations of its strongest advocates, as shown in the improvement of our laws, State and National, in many instances, but notably in what is known as the granger cases, subjecting transportation companies to legislative control in the interest of the people and forever settling the question in this country."

"In times of general depression like the present it is natural for persons to assume, and while this may or may not be true of agriculture at the present time, yet I can say, and that without fear of successful contradiction, that the interest here represented is in a very satisfactory condition."

Upon the currency question Mr. Sims said: "Disguise the fact as you may, the question of money or currency remains the same as ever." Upon the homestead question he suggested that the Legislature abridge the Constitutional provisions so that the owner could not mortgage his homestead at will even with the consent of his wife to which practice might be directly attributed more disappointment, loss and heart-aches than could be traced to any other single financial blunder from which every one of the people now suffered.

FEDERATION OF LABOR.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 10.—Some eighty delegates of the American Federation of Labor were in Clawson's Hall when President Gompers called the convention to order shortly after 11 o'clock. The delegates were welcomed to the city by the president of the board of aldermen in the absence of the mayor, and President Gompers, of the Federation, responded.

President Gompers, in his annual address, advised the convention to avoid controversial questions and to concentrate their efforts upon such issues as the members were most agreed on. That such a course was best was evidenced by the success of the eight-hour movement since the last convention. Since the agitation had begun that reform had been very successful in 137 cities and has benefited 36,977 workmen in the carpenters' trade, besides countless others in other branches of the building trade. The demand for an eight-hour day would be made for other trades in succession and its final success could not be questioned. The next industry to make the demand would be the coal miners. They would move May 1, 1891.

During the year the Federation has established 274 local branches and the National trades unions report report 913 local branches established. Existing branches have added from 5 to 35 per cent in membership. The address declares in favor of the system of National unions of individual trades. During the year 1,163 authorized strikes have taken place. Of these 989 succeeded, 76 failed and 98 were compromised. Besides many concessions were gained without resort to strikes. The people who propose a strike are warned that bluster will not win and that they must be prepared for whatever battle they propose. The Federation is not always able to assist strikes financially.

President Gompers refers in commendation to the project for an international labor congress in 1893, to be coincident with the World's Fair; demands the enforcement of the eight-hour law in Government work; asks for a suitable Federal contract labor law; suggests observance of Labor day as a National holiday; warns against child labor and declares for an international copyright and ballot reform. He meets the charge of excluding Socialists by denying that he has ever tried to exclude any one for his economic opinions and insisting that the only requisite to the trades union movement is good standing in a local union.

MISSOURI STATE GRANGE.

CAMERON, Mo., Dec. 10.—The nineteenth annual session of the State Grange began yesterday with delegates from various portions of the State and the entire staff of State officers present. Headed by the Cameron band the body marched to the hall, where Mayor Dinwiddie delivered the address of welcome. State Lecturer Thompson, of Bates County, responded, and was followed by State Secretary Smith, of Hannibal, and State Master Page, of Sedalia. Then State Master Page delivered his annual address. The attendance was the largest for years.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

The Situation Being Considered at Washington—Mr. Plumb's Proposed Measure—Financial Legislation in Congress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Plumb, relative to National bank deposits and silver coinage, provides in brief as follows:

That the compulsory requirement of deposits of United States bonds with the Treasury by National banks shall be limited in amount to \$1,000 for each bank. This is not to apply to deposits of bonds to secure public moneys. That United States notes shall be issued equal in amount to the National bank notes retired since 1883 and hereafter retired. That the present silver coinage law shall be amended so as to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase all silver bullion offered at the market price, not to exceed \$1 for 371.25 grains pure silver, and issue Treasury notes in payment. When the price is for six months in excess of the above figures purchases are to be suspended and coinage is to be free, the bullion owner being privileged to receive standard dollars or Treasury notes, at his own pleasure. No more certificates are to be issued and those in use are to be replaced with Treasury notes. When the mints of France, Belgium and Italy are opened to free silver coinage at a ratio of 15½ ounces of silver to 1 ounce of gold, the President shall, by proclamation, prohibit the further coinage of the standard 412½ grain dollar, receive deposits of silver bullion for coinage at the rate of \$1 for 360 grains pure silver (the coin or Treasury notes therefor to be issued within one year after the proclamation).

The new dollar is to contain 404 grains of standard silver, be a legal tender and they are to be coined at a rate of not less than \$2,500,000 monthly, until \$300,000,000 is coined, when the coinage is to be continued at the discretion of the Secretary, recoinning the present standard dollar and bullion on hand.

At the discretion of the Secretary he may also cause standard silver bars to be paid in redemption of United States Treasury notes at the rate of \$1 for 400 grains.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Plumb (which is the same in terms as the bill above described) was offered in lieu of all after the enacting clause of the Paddock bill now on the Senate calendar, to amend the statute so as to provide for the organization of National banks with a less capital than \$50,000.

CONSIDERING THE SITUATION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Financial legislation is what the attention of Congress and the Administration is centered upon. This does not yet show upon the surface. Congress is apparently engaged with the elections bill and miscellaneous matters, but the daily proceedings are only *pro forma*. The real issue, the one to which the most thought is being given, is the financial question. There was a conference Saturday night, and there was another last night. There was further conferring to-day. There will be more talk on the subject at the Cabinet meeting to-morrow. The big men in the Senate and House are giving only passing notice to what is transpiring on the floor. They are shut up in committee rooms by day and they gather at appointed places by night to exchange views and to shape a financial measure which can command united Republican support, and can be put through in short order when once produced. The necessity of promptness in this matter is being urged upon the President daily. Bliss and Seligman, of New York, came over and visited the White House as the bearers of an urgent message from the moneyed men of New York. St. John and other New York bankers spent Sunday here in consultation with Senators. These men express hopeful views when they talk for publication, but to the President and to Senators they present the gravity of the situation in strong terms. They ask for legislation which shall satisfy the business interests of two things. One of these things is more money. The other is a definite and permanent financial policy on the part of the Administration. These bankers have assured the Administration that the trouble is now too deep-seated for temporary expedients. A want of confidence exists. It is such a want as can not be relieved by letting out a few millions from the Treasury. One of these bankers frankly said in the conference that he had more money in his vaults than he needed.

Said he: "I have between \$700,000 and \$1,000,000 in cash lying idle. It is that much over and above what I need for the ordinary demands of my business. I can lend it. I would be glad to. Why don't you? Because I am afraid. I can't see ahead. Others are like me. We have all lost confidence. Those who have got money are holding on to it because they do not know whether, if they let it go, they will get it back. This state of affairs can't continue indefinitely. Either confidence must be restored in some way or there will be wreckage and cleavage as will take months to clear away. If the country could be assured as to the definite and permanent financial policy of the Administration it would go far to restore confidence. If it was known that the Government had taken steps to stop the contraction of the currency, and to expand it to a certain fixed amount, then we would feel easy about the future and would let go of the dollars we are now holding to the derangement of all business. I believe that the necessity is an immediate one."